

here in Congress and therefore the taxpayers because insolvency would be in no one's interest.

Finally, we have to ensure that there is long-term solvency for these multi-employer plans. That entails enacting some restructuring, some structural reforms to the funding rules governing employer contributions so that bailing out these plans doesn't become a habit of the Federal Government. We don't want to fix this problem and be right back in a few years having to fix it again.

We should gradually phase down the rate of return which plans assume in budgeting for promises that are made to participants, partly because that keeps these plans from going bankrupt and partly because that is just fair. Investment risk is a problem in these plans now, and we need to give more certainty to workers and retirees.

The pension crisis is an issue that I, along with Senator GRASSLEY, Senator SHERROD BROWN from Ohio, and many other colleagues here in the Senate, have been trying to solve for quite a long time. We had a bicameral and bipartisan solution very close at hand at the conclusion of a committee process that ended about a year and a half ago, but we weren't quite able to get there. I think it is achievable, particularly now, but only if we are willing to listen to each other and willing to come around the table for a real discussion.

Republicans have reached out. I reach out today. We are ready to find an acceptable compromise. We are ready to talk, but that discussion needs to be driven by the merits of solving this issue, not just the politics of the moment. We owe solving this problem to those beneficiaries—the retirees, the workers, the active workers in these plans—and to the small businesses participating in these plans. We have to find common ground. We have to deliver a sustainable and lasting solution.

I believe we have an opportunity right now, this month, to try to come together, working with the House and the Senate and the administration. Everybody has a responsibility to do it. We talked about shared responsibility with regard to the plans; there is also a shared accountability here in the U.S. Congress. This is our job. We can get this done. I think we are quite close now with similar structures and having gone through various iterations during the select committee process a year and a half ago. Let's do the right thing. Let's act now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a pe-

riod of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. SENATE INTERNS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this summer, it was my privilege to select several talented young Kentuckians for an internship in my Washington Senate office. As a former Senate intern myself, I am proud of the individuals who are eager to apply themselves to public service.

I would like to take a moment to commend James Adams of Jefferson County, William Cohen of Jefferson County, Julian Colvin of Jefferson County, Garland Ellis of Bell County, Mary Grace Furnish of Harrison County, William Miller of Taylor County, Lauren Reuss of Spencer County, Samuel Rickert of Oldham County, Elizabeth Rupp of Fayette County, Madelin Shelton of Owen County, Victoria Sisk of Christian County, Jordan White of Campbell County, and Erdin Zukic of Warren County for their interest in serving the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our great Nation. Each of these young people has developed an impressive list of leadership experiences and extracurricular activities. Their applications stood out, and I was proud to offer them an internship.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus crisis forced the cancellation of this summer's internship program. The virus may have taken away this opportunity, but it can never change the great potential these Kentuckians have in store. I would like to thank each of them for pursuing public service and to extend my best wishes for a bright future.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. SENATE PAGES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it was my privilege to select three outstanding high school students from Kentucky for this summer's U.S. Senate Page Program. These talented young people completed a highly competitive application process, and they represent the next generation of Kentucky's leaders.

I would like to take a moment to commend Jackson Hester, Charlotte McCarthy, and Thomas Schrepferman for their interest in serving the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our great Nation. Their applications showed a broad range of leadership experiences and extracurricular activities. These Kentuckians and their families should be proud of all they've accomplished at this young age.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus crisis made it impossible for the Senate Page Program to bring these students to Washington this summer. The virus may have canceled this opportunity, but it can never change the great potential these young people have in store. I would like to thank Jackson, Charlotte, and Thomas for their com-

mitment to public service and extend my best wishes for a bright future.

NOMINATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, workers right now are dealing with unprecedented challenges and are making great personal sacrifices to keep the country running during this crisis.

And the nominees under consideration today for the National Labor Relations Board will play a critical role in safeguarding their rights and protections.

That is why I voted for Lauren McFerran to serve another term on the NLRB.

She is a dedicated, qualified, and well-respected public servant who had a proven track record of fighting for workers before she joined the Board and has stood by workers in enforcing these fundamental protections during her time on the NLRB.

But unfortunately, the opposite is true for Marvin Kaplan, the Republican nominee to the NLRB.

Mr. Kaplan spent his career working to further corporations' interests and gut workers' rights instead of protecting them. That is why Democrats opposed his nomination in 2017, and that is exactly what he has done since joining the NLRB.

He is exactly wrong to serve another term on the NLRB, and that is why I voted against his confirmation.

I am also extremely disappointed we do not have the nomination of another highly qualified Democrat to the NLRB, Jennifer Abruzzo, to consider today.

Years of Republican obstruction of highly qualified Democratic nominees to critical worker protection agencies like the NLRB and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shows a blatant disregard for longstanding deference to the minority party and is a significant departure from the customs of this institution. It is unacceptable, and I will not stop pushing for Democratic nominees.

I urge my colleagues to vote today to stand up for workers and their rights.

I would also like to say that, after months of delay from my Republican colleagues, the COVID relief proposal Republicans put forward this week is incredibly late, profoundly inadequate, and can't credibly be considered a starting point for negotiations.

It gives corporations a "get out of jail free" card to prevent employers from being held accountable for keeping their workers safe and a license to discriminate including on the basis of age, race, sex, and disability status.

And instead of expanding unemployment benefits that have been a lifeline for workers in my home State and across the country—which by the way, are due to expire tomorrow—Republicans have slashed them.

This bill doesn't get us anywhere near where we need to be on developing a vaccine that is accessible and affordable to every person and is completely